



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

July 17, 2006

Ordinance 15550

Proposed No. 2006-0305.1

Sponsors Constantine, Hague and Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to protecting lives and property by controlling
2 flooding in King County; declaring the intention of the King County
3 council to create a countywide flood control zone district and to
4 dissolve existing flood control zone districts within the county as
5 required by state law.

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8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

9 SECTION 1. Findings:

10 A. Every year, King County faces significant threats from
11 flooding, the impacts of which are far-reaching and pose significant
12 threats to public health and safety and economic activities throughout
13 the county.

14 B. Flooding impacts public infrastructure, including
15 transportation corridors and critical public safety facilities, as well
16 as private businesses and personal residences, all of which are vital
17 to the health, safety and well-being of citizens throughout the entire
18 county.

19 C. Throughout King County there are nearly five hundred aging
20 flood protection facilities that, because of historical and current
21 revenue limitations, cannot be repaired or maintained adequately. In

22 addition, there are significant needs for new or enhanced flood
23 protection facilities and measures throughout the county.

24 D. Since 1990 King County has been declared a flood disaster
25 area seven times. Floods in future years are also expected to exceed
26 the capacity and protective abilities of existing flood protection
27 facilities, thereby threatening property, lives, major transportation
28 corridors, communities and regional economic centers. This potential
29 for significant flooding threatens the health, safety and prosperity of
30 citizens countywide.

31 E. The impacts of flooding can be severe and extend far beyond
32 the floodplain itself. Buildings can be damaged along with household
33 furnishings and business inventories. In addition to the direct
34 threats and damage from floodwater, people face the threat of
35 electrocution, explosions and fires caused by leaking gas lines and
36 damaged electrical lines. Severe flooding can also destroy utility
37 infrastructure, causing extensive disruptions in service. Loss of
38 power and communication are common with severe floods. Damage to
39 drinking water and wastewater facilities can also spread disease. In
40 addition, impacts to roads and highways can impair the mobility of
41 people, goods and services -- including emergency service vehicles and
42 personnel.

43 F. One of the most fundamental functions of government is to
44 protect citizens and public and private property from the ravages of
45 natural disasters such as flooding.

46 G. Flood control needs exist throughout the county, and an
47 integrated and coordinated approach is needed to effectively and
48 efficiently address those needs.

49 H. Chapter 86.15 RCW authorizes the county council to initiate
50 the creation of a countywide flood control zone district within King

51 County for the purpose of undertaking, operating or maintaining flood
52 control projects or storm water control projects, among other powers.
53 A countywide district could address flood and storm water control needs
54 throughout the county, including within King County cities.

55 I. Forming a district is a multi-step process that begins with
56 this ordinance declaring the intent to create a district and setting a
57 public hearing. A second ordinance is necessary to create the
58 district.

59 J. Certain flood control zone districts exist in the county,
60 including those specified on Attachment A to this ordinance. However,
61 only the Green River Flood Control Zone District has an ongoing revenue
62 source.

63 K. RCW 86.15.023 provides that the council may not establish a
64 flood control zone district that includes areas located in another
65 flood control zone district unless such area is removed from the other
66 district, or the other district is dissolved, as part of the action
67 creating the new flood control zone district.

68 L. This ordinance constitutes the resolution to initiate the
69 creation of a proposed countywide flood control zone district,
70 consistent with RCW 86.15.020 and the resolution describing the
71 proposed boundaries of the district and the flood control needs of the
72 district, as required by RCW 86.15.030.

73 SECTION 2. The council intends to create a countywide flood
74 control zone district covering the entire area of King County with
75 proposed boundaries as set forth in Attachment B to this ordinance.
76 The new district shall be known as the "King County Flood Control Zone
77 District."

78 SECTION 3. The council finds and determines that since 1986
79 within the proposed boundaries of the King County Flood Control Zone

District major flood events along King County's rivers have resulted in more than fifty-seven million dollars of damage to public and private property. The one-hundred-year floodplain in King County covers more than twenty-five thousand acres in the county or close to forty square miles. As of 2005, there were more than two thousand structures in the one-hundred-year floodplain with a total assessed valuation of two billion seven hundred million dollars. The flood control needs in King County are described more extensively in chapter 3 of the 2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan.

SECTION 4. Dissolving existing flood control zone districts is a statutory prerequisite to the formation of a countywide flood control zone district, and the proposed King County Flood Control Zone District will address flood control needs throughout the county. Therefore, consistent with the requirements of chapter 86.15 RCW, the council declares its intention to dissolve the existing flood control zone districts within the county, including the flood control zone districts specified and described in Attachment A to this ordinance.

SECTION 5. All persons who may desire to be heard with respect to the creation of the countywide flood control zone district or the dissolution of existing flood control zone districts are notified to appear at a meeting of the council to be held in King County Council Chambers Room 1001 King County Courthouse, 516 Third Ave. Seattle at 1:30 pm , local time, on July 31, 2006, which time and place are fixed for hearings on the creation of the countywide district and the dissolution of the existing flood control zone districts within the county. The council finds that the hearing dates are not more than thirty days after the adoption of this ordinance. Notice of the public hearings shall be provided in accordance with RCW 36.32.120(7).

Ordinance 15550

108 SECTION 6. Upon adoption of this ordinance, the clerk of the
109 council or the clerk's designee shall cause notices of the intent to
110 form a countywide flood control zone district and to dissolve existing
111 flood control zone districts in the county to be provided to the King
112 County Boundary Review Board, consistent with chapter 36.93 RCW.

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Ordinance 15550 was introduced on 7/10/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 7/17/2006, by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr.
Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

Excused: 1 - Ms. Patterson

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

APPROVED this 18th day of July, 2006.

Attachments A. Existing Flood Control Zone Districts, B. King County Flood Control Zone District
Boundaries (Countywide)